GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2688
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Exploitation of Groundwater by Industries
Jadhav Shri Sanjay Haribhau

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any measures to prevent industries from over exploiting groundwater resources, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether collaboration is going on with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to define quality norms for different grades of industrial water in order to standardise the design of reuse system nationwide, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Public Private Partnerships (PPP) models have been considered for infrastructure development in the water sector, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water. Under the CGWA guidelines, in notified areas, no permission is accorded to extract ground water through any energized means for any purpose other than drinking and domestic purpose. However, for non-notified areas, ground water withdrawal by industries is regulated by means of guidelines/criteria as specified as CGWA.

Further, to regulate and control development of ground water by various users including industries, the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR had circulated a Model Bill in the year 2005 to all States / UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation, which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States / UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.

Contd. p/2

(b) Standards for discharge for various industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change . So far 46 effluent discharge norms have been notified. Central Pollution Control Board has been emphasizing upon industries for water conservation and appropriate guidelines / directions have been issued from time to time. Distillery units have been directed to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge by adopting state of art technology for conservation of water. A charter has been prepared for pulp & paper industries for reduction in water consumption and industries are complying with it.

Ministry of Power, vide resolution dated 28.1.2016, have made mandatory the use of treated sewage water by thermal power plants, located within a radius of 50 km of sewage treatment plants.

(c) Water being a State subject, the State at all levels holds water in public trust for the people. Measures including management and distribution of water resources are taken by the State Governments in their respective States. State Governments / local bodies are empowered to make such regulations on water as is necessary for its efficient management / distribution which, inter-alia, include inviting private investment in infrastructure projects, such as water supply, sewerage, etc.

Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes / programmes. National Mission for Clean Ganga has proposed Hybrid Annuity based PPP model to be adopted for Waste water treatment infrastructure in Ganga basin.

The National Water Policy, 2012, inter-alia, stipulates that water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. For improved service delivery on sustainable basis, the State Governments / urban local bodies may associate private sector in public private partnership mode. In this process, the prices and service standards would be subjected to regulatory control, with penalties for failure, as well as full accountability to democratically elected local bodies.

*****